
By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2003

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Child Welfare System Accountability**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Child Welfare System
4 Accountability; providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the
5 Governor to appoint the chairman of the Task Force; providing for the staff for
6 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to determine a certain method for
7 estimating the extent of child abuse and neglect in the State; requiring the Task
8 Force to develop a certain list of performance measures and qualitative
9 assessments that will help the State monitor certain things at certain steps
10 within the child welfare system; requiring the Task Force to determine how the
11 State can identify and initiate certain best practices; requiring the Task Force to
12 determine a measurement of certain child outcomes; requiring the Task Force to
13 study how certain data can be compiled and disseminated for a certain purpose;
14 requiring the Task Force to study methods for ensuring that certain data is used
15 to improve certain outcomes and performance; requiring the Task Force to
16 examine certain funding mechanisms; requiring the Task Force to study how the
17 State can ensure access to certain federal funding; requiring the Task Force to
18 submit a certain preliminary report on or before a certain date and a certain
19 final report on or before a certain date; defining a certain term; providing for the
20 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Child
21 Welfare System Accountability.

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 MARYLAND, That:

24 (a) There is a Task Force on Child Welfare System Accountability.

25 (b) In this Act, "Child welfare system" includes:

26 (1) child protective services under § 5-701 of the Family Law Article;

27 (2) family preservation services under §§ 37 and 38 of Article 49D of the
28 Code;

29 (3) out-of-home placement services under §§ 5-501 through 5-534 of the
30 Family Law Article;

- 1 (4) adoption;
- 2 (5) integrated child welfare and substance abuse treatment services
3 under §§ 5-1201 through 5-1208 of the Family Law Article; and
- 4 (6) citizen oversight under Title 5, Subtitle 7A and §§ 5-535 through
5 5-547 of the Family Law Article and §§ 5-701 through 5-709 of the Health - General
6 Article.
- 7 (c) The Task Force consists of the following members:
- 8 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
9 the Senate;
- 10 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
11 the House;
- 12 (3) the Secretary of Human Resources;
- 13 (4) the Special Secretary of the Office for Children, Youth, and Families;
- 14 (5) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- 15 (6) the Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
- 16 (7) the State Superintendent of Education;
- 17 (8) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services;
- 18 (9) the Secretary of Budget and Management;
- 19 (10) the Deputy Secretary for Planning in the Department of Human
20 Resources;
- 21 (11) the Executive Director of the Social Services Administration;
- 22 (12) three designees of the Maryland Association of Social Services
23 Directors, including one member from Baltimore City;
- 24 (13) two designees of the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children;
- 25 (14) one representative of the Children's Outcome Collaborative;
- 26 (15) one representative of the Maryland Association of Resources for
27 Families and Youth; and
- 28 (16) one designee of each of the following:
- 29 (i) the Citizens' Review Board for Children;
- 30 (ii) the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect;

- 1 (iii) the State Child Fatality Review Team;
- 2 (iv) the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;
- 3 (v) the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.;
- 4 (vi) the Annie E. Casey Foundation;
- 5 (vii) the Child Welfare League of America;
- 6 (viii) the American Humane Association;
- 7 (ix) the American Bar Association's Center for Children and the
8 Law; and
- 9 (x) the Treatment Services Division of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse
10 Administration.

11 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

12 (d) The Department of Budget and Management shall provide staff for the
13 Task Force.

14 (e) The Task Force shall:

15 (1) determine a method for estimating the extent of child abuse and
16 neglect in the State, including incidents that are not reported to authorities;

17 (2) develop an agreed upon list of performance measures and qualitative
18 assessments of individual cases that will help the State monitor the safety,
19 permanency, emotional well-being, and educational development of children at each
20 of the following steps within the child welfare system:

21 (i) reporting;

22 (ii) screening;

23 (iii) investigation;

24 (iv) family preservation;

25 (v) out-of-home placement; and

26 (vi) permanent placement;

27 (3) determine how the State can identify and initiate best practices in all
28 aspects of child welfare with emphasis on:

29 (i) outcome based care management;

30 (ii) program accountability; and

- 1 (iii) measures of compliance with State and federal policies;
- 2 (4) determine measurements of child outcomes to be conducted by an
3 independent research facility, including longitudinal studies of represented families
4 after child welfare service intervention is completed, in order to gather data for
5 performance indicators;
- 6 (5) study how data from the following sources can be compiled and
7 disseminated in order for the State to be able to monitor child safety, permanency, and
8 well-being:
- 9 (i) the Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information
10 Exchange;
- 11 (ii) substantive case record information;
- 12 (iii) independent evaluation of case-specific services provided by
13 families receiving services and other stakeholders; and
- 14 (iv) independent oversight entities;
- 15 (6) study methods for ensuring that evaluation data is used to improve
16 child and family outcomes, as well as performance at all levels of child services
17 agencies;
- 18 (7) examine how funding mechanisms reinforce progress toward desired
19 outcomes and possible changes in the child welfare funding system; and
- 20 (8) study how the State can ensure access to all allowable federal
21 funding to improve children's safety, permanency, and well-being.
- 22 (f) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
23 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
24 Assembly in a preliminary report on or before October 31, 2003, and in a final report
25 on or before December 1, 2004.
- 26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
27 effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and,
28 at the end of December 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General
29 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.